

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

In response to the Examiner's request, the specification has been amended to update the status of the applications identified therein.

Claims 12, 24, 32, 39, 42, 44, 49, 54, 57 and 59 have been amended, to remove the basis for the objection directed to antecedent basis.

Claim 1 was rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting, in view of claim 1 of parent Patent No. 6,633,313. To remove the basis for this ground of rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith.

All pending claims were rejected as being either anticipated by, or obvious in view of, U.S. Patent No. 5,774,729, identified as "Carney". It is respectfully submitted that the Carney patent neither anticipates, nor otherwise suggests, the subject matter of the pending claims.

Claim 1 recites a method for routing an event to a human interface object in a computer system. The claimed method includes the steps of assigning a routing type to an event, and determining the routing type of the received event. The final step of claim 1 is "routing the event to a human interface object based on the determined routing type for the event." With reference to an exemplary embodiment depicted in Figure 11, the application discloses that three different routing types can be assigned to events, namely geometric, focus and broadcast. When an event is received, its assigned routing type is determined. For example, at steps 1102, 1120 and 1130. If the routing type is geometric, a determination is made as to which window is located at the position of the event, and the event is sent to that window.

If the routing type is focus, a determination is made which window has the current focus, and the event is sent to that window. If the routing type is broadcast, the event is sent to multiple windows, e.g. all windows associated with an application.

In this particular example, the human interface object that receives the event is a window. The application provides examples of other types of human interface objects to which the events can be provided, namely panels, editable text, push buttons, list boxes, radio boxes, etc. (page 2, lines 22-24). These human interface objects comprise elements of a graphical user interface that are displayed on a monitor or other similar type of display device. In other words, they are the elements with which the user interacts to perform operations on a computer.

In rejecting claims 1 and 12, the Office Action states that the Carney patent discloses the step of assigning a routing type to an event, with reference to its disclosure of "targeted" and "broadcast" event types. Contrary to the assertion made in the Office Action, however, the Carney patent does not disclose that an event is routed to a human interface object, based on these routing types. Rather, as disclosed at column 4, lines 41-53, the identification of an event as either "targeted" or "broadcast" determines which *event handler* that event is routed to. An event handler, per se, does not constitute a human interface object. Rather, it is a method within a program that is automatically called whenever a particular event occurs. See, for example, the Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, 2002. It is not an object that appears on the display of the computer system, with which the human user interacts.

In rejecting the claim, the Office Action states that an interactive debugger is a human interface object. It is respectfully submitted that a debugger is not a human

interface object. Rather, it is a program that enables a programmer to step through, and observe, the operation of another program, to identify and fix bugs in that other program.

Furthermore, even if an interactive debugger is interpreted to be a human interface object, the Carney patent does not disclose that events are routed to a debugger, "based on the determined routing type for the event", as recited in the claim. Rather, it only discloses that the designation of an event as targeted or broadcast determines which *handler* is to receive the event. The patent discloses that the debugger is distinct from the handler. See column 5, lines 58-59. After receiving an event, the handler may forward the event on to the debugger. However, the patent does not disclose that the determination to forward the event on to the *debugger* is made on the basis of the routing type. Rather, the decision to forward the event on to the debugger is a result of the method programmed into the event handler.

In summary, therefore, the Carney patent only discloses that the designation of an event as being a "target" or "broadcast" event is used to determine the particular event handler (or plural event handlers) to which the event is to be routed. It does not disclose that an event is routed to a *human interface object* on the basis of its routing type. Whether the event handler forwards the event on to a human interface object is based on the functionality of that handler, and not on a routing type.

Accordingly, the Carney patent does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 1. For at least these same reasons, the subject matter of the other independent claims is likewise not anticipated.

Claim 2 recites that the routing type is a member of a set that includes routing based on geometric coordinates of an event and routing based on an input focus. In rejecting this claim, the Office Action asserts that the Carney patent discloses routing based on input focus, with reference to its disclosure of the "targeted" mode. It is respectfully submitted that the targeted mode disclosed in the Carney patent does not correspond to input focus, as that term is commonly understood in the context of graphical user interfaces. In the Carney patent, a targeted event is one that is of interest only to the *event handler* that corresponds to a currently executing routine. In other words, the event is "targeted" for a specific handler.

In contrast to this meaning, the term "input focus", or more generally "focus", refers to an element of a user interface that will receive input from a keyboard. See, for example, Barron's Dictionary of Computer and Internet Terms, 7th Edition, 2000. The Carney patent does not contain any disclosure relating to this concept. More particularly, it does not disclose that events can be classified into two different routing types, one of which is based upon input focus, and another of which is based upon the geometric coordinates of an event. In rejecting claim 2, the Office Action states that events based on geometric coordinates are well known. This fact, by itself, however, does not suggest the classification of events into different types for purposes of routing them to different human interface objects as recited in the claims. As best, the Carney patent only discloses that events can be classified according to those which are designated for a particular event handler, and those which are broadcast to multiple event handlers.

Claims 4 and 5 recite that the routing types are extensible, wherein routing types can be added and deleted. In rejecting this claim, the Office Action asserts

that it is obvious to make the number of routing types flexible. However, the Office Action does not go on to explain how this general proposition is to be applied in the context of the Carney patent. That patent is only concerned with two types of events, namely those which are targeted to a specific event handler, and those which are to be sent to multiple event handlers. Since these two designations cover the universe of all events, there is no reason to add other types. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action does not establish that it would be obvious to employ an extensible set of routing types within the context of the Carney patent.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the Carney patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based upon that patent are respectfully requested.

New claims 60-65 recite further particulars of the human interface object to which the events are routed. Claim 60 recites that these human interface objects comprise elements of a graphical user interface that are displayed on a display device, and claim 61 lists specific types of elements. It is respectfully submitted that these claims further distinguish the invention from the disclosure of the Carney patent. As discussed previously, that patent only discloses that events are routed to event handlers, based upon their designation as either "targeted" or "broadcast". There is no teaching which suggests that events are routed to elements of a graphical user interface that are displayed on a display device, particularly, the specific elements recited in the claims.

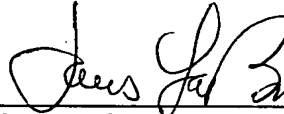
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all
pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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